

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

generating, on a **first local** computer, ~~a first~~ **an install** license for software installed on the **first local** computer, wherein the **first install** license is generated by the **first local** computer in response to the software being installed;

obtaining, by the **first local** computer, from a **second remote** computer a **second trial** license for the installed software, wherein the **second trial** license is generated by the **second remote** computer;

determining, by the **first local** computer, whether the **second trial** license is authentic; and

replacing, if the **second trial** license is authentic, the **first install** license with the **second trial** license.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein replacing, if the **second trial** license is authentic, the **first install** license with the **second trial** license comprises:

setting, by the **first local** computer, a first identifier to associate the **first install** license with the **first local** computer;

determining whether the first identifier matches a second identifier of the **second trial** license;

validating a digital signature of the **second trial** license;
determining, if the first identifier matches the second identifier and the digital signature is valid, that the **second trial** license is authentic; and
replacing, as a result of determining that the **second trial** license is authentic, the **first install** license with the **second trial** license.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein obtaining from the **second remote** computer the **second trial** license further comprises:
connecting to the **second remote** computer,
providing the **second remote** computer with at least a portion of the **first install** license; and
exchanging the **first install** license for the **second trial** license.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein connecting to the **second remote** computer comprises connecting to the **second remote** computer via a communications network.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the communications network is the internet.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein exchanging the **first install** license for the **second trial** license includes formatting data from the **first install** license according to a set of text processing rules and transmitting the formatted data using a text transfer protocol.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, further comprising digitally signing the **first install** and **second trial** licenses, wherein digitally signing the **first install** and **second trial** licenses includes applying a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest, the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique identifier.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-accessible medium including thereon sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause an electronic system to:

generating, on a **first local** computer, a **first install** license for software installed on the **first local** computer, wherein the **first install** license is generated by the **first local** computer in response to the software being installed;

obtaining, by the **first local** computer, from a **second remote** computer a **second trial** license for the installed software, wherein the **second trial** license is generated by the **second remote** computer;

determining, by the **first local** computer, whether the **second trial** license is authentic; and

replacing, if the **second trial** license is authentic, the **first install** license with the **second trial** license.

14. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to replace, if the **second trial** license is authentic, the **second trial** license with the **first install** license comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to:

set, by the **first local** computer, a first identifier to associate the **first install** license with the **first local** computer;

determine whether the first identifier matches a second identifier of the ~~second~~ trial license;

validate a digital signature of the ~~second~~ trial license;

determine, if the first identifier matches the second identifier and the digital signature is valid, that the ~~second~~ trial license is authentic; and

replace, as a result of determining that the ~~second~~ trial license is authentic, the ~~first~~ install license with the ~~second~~ trial license.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 13, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to obtain, by the ~~first~~ local computer, from the ~~second~~ remote computer the ~~second~~ trial license further comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to:

connect to the ~~second~~ remote computer;

provide the ~~second~~ remote computer with at least a portion of the ~~first~~ install license; and

exchange the ~~first~~ install license for the ~~second~~ trial license.

28. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 27, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ remote computer comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed,

cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ remote computer via a communications network.

29. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 28, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ remote computer via the communications network comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ remote computer via the internet.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 13, wherein the machine-accessible medium further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to verify whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

32. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 26 further comprising sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to digitally sign the ~~first~~ install and ~~second~~ trial licenses, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to digitally sign the ~~first~~ install and ~~second~~ trial licenses include sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to apply a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest,

the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique identifier.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selectively refreshing the ~~second~~ trial license prior to expiration of a predetermined period of time.

34. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine-accessible medium further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to selectively refresh the ~~second~~ trial license prior to expiration of a predetermined period of time.
